



Contact: Tom Snyder
760.343.4908
tsnyder@animalsamaritans.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobile Pet Clinic Sees Record Crowds in Coachella

Thousand Palms, CA – June 2, 2009: Animal Samaritans SPCA brought clinic staff members and volunteers to Veteran's Park on Saturday, May 30, and served a record 218 pet owners in just six hours. "Our pet clinic was only scheduled from 7am to 11am," said Animal Samaritans Executive Director Fred Saunders. "But when it came time to pack up, we still had more than a hundred people waiting in line with their dogs and cats. We stayed until everyone was served."

Most pet owners brought multiple dogs and cats to the park. Additionally, most animals required more than one vaccination. By day's end, vet techs gave more than 450 vaccinations to pets, including rabies shots and package vaccinations that cover such animal diseases as parvo, distemper, and bordatella (kennel cough). The numbers are the highest yet for Animal Samaritans' monthly mobile pet clinic, surpassing the previous record of 347 pet vaccinations performed in Mecca.

Additionally, Animal Samaritans administered 25 pet microchips, grain-sized information chips inserted under the animal's skin. Microchips contain a pet owner's phone number and address, can be scanned at most animal shelters and vet clinics, and are now a common way to help reunite lost animals with their owners.

Many people brought their children to the mobile clinic. This was a wonderful opportunity for adults to model the safe and humane care of animals to their children, helping to ensure the next generation of pet owners follows in their parents' footsteps.

Due to the popularity of their recent mobile pet clinic, Animal Samaritans plans to return to Veteran's Park at the end of June for a second event. This will be especially beneficial for pet owners who had their animals vaccinated for the first time on May 30, as some vaccinations require a monthly follow-up, or booster injection, to be entirely effective.

The cost to vaccinate your animals ranges between \$12 and \$17 per shot. Locals can also microchip their furry companions for just \$15. Pet owners will be seen on a first come, first served basis. Pet medical records are helpful, but not mandatory.

Animal Samaritans SPCA, a 501 (c) non-profit organization founded in 1978, is committed to improving the lives of animals and people. As the Coachella Valley's most comprehensive animal welfare organization, they strive to one day eliminate the needless suffering and abuse of homeless and unwanted animals. Programs and services in place to save the lives of healthy and treatable animals include prevention through humane education, low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter, low-cost vaccinations, low-cost dental care and pet wellness exams, microchipping, animal sheltering and pet adoptions. In addition, more than one hundred volunteers from their Animal Assisted Therapy programs visit disabled children in special needs classrooms, nursing homes, and hospitals, while their Animal Assisted Activities teams see residents at Juvenile Hall. More information is available by visiting www.animalsamaritans.org

###